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7 October 1963

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Requirements for Satellite Photography
for Search and for Technical Intelligence
for FY 1965

1. This memorandum is for the information of the Director of Central Intelligence.

2. Last week Dr. Wheelon requested that COMOR prepare a paper for the Board's consideration which could be useful to the NRO in facing certain budget decisions. It seemed to me that this was a proper procedure in view of the fact that the Director had, on a number of occasions, sought the advice of the Board on satellite scheduling in the light of requirements.

3. Accordingly, I distributed to the COMOR a paper which was considered at the regular meeting of the Committee on 4 October. It was agreed after some preliminary discussion to hold a special meeting on Monday, 7 October. This meeting was held and a new draft was developed which the members are planning to consider prior to the meeting on 10 October. The critical paragraph in that new, and still preliminary, draft follows:

"A projection of our requirements, based upon our experience, into types and numbers of missions may be useful to the D/NRO in devising his budget for 1965:

"We believe that a minimum sampling of our requirements could be satisfied by two successful M-type missions per month during the summer

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months (May through September) and one per month during the remaining months of the year. (It may be of interest that we also believe this same schedule during the intervening months through FY 1964 would be adequate.)

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At that meeting it was suggested that the paper ought also to include some view with regard to [redacted] We plan to add a section on that.

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4. In the course of our discussions, [redacted] of the DIA stated that Mr. Gilpatric had requested a DOD position by 1 November on the same question not only through FY 1965 but also for two years later.

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5. At the meeting this morning, Mr. Kiefer was present as well as [redacted] of NRO. We spent over two hours of our time discussing the ill-fated COMOR long-term satellite requirements paper (the COMOR-D-13 series) in an effort to find some sensible way to state requirements which would reflect the community's views and also be useful to the NRO. I must say that I am a bit pessimistic about our eventual success. However, we have agreed to meet again within a week. I shall report after that meeting on the outcome along with a recommendation on what the next steps might be.

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James Q. Reber
Chairman

Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

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